

# Empowering Parents with Data



## Ensuring Parents Have Data to Make Informed Choices

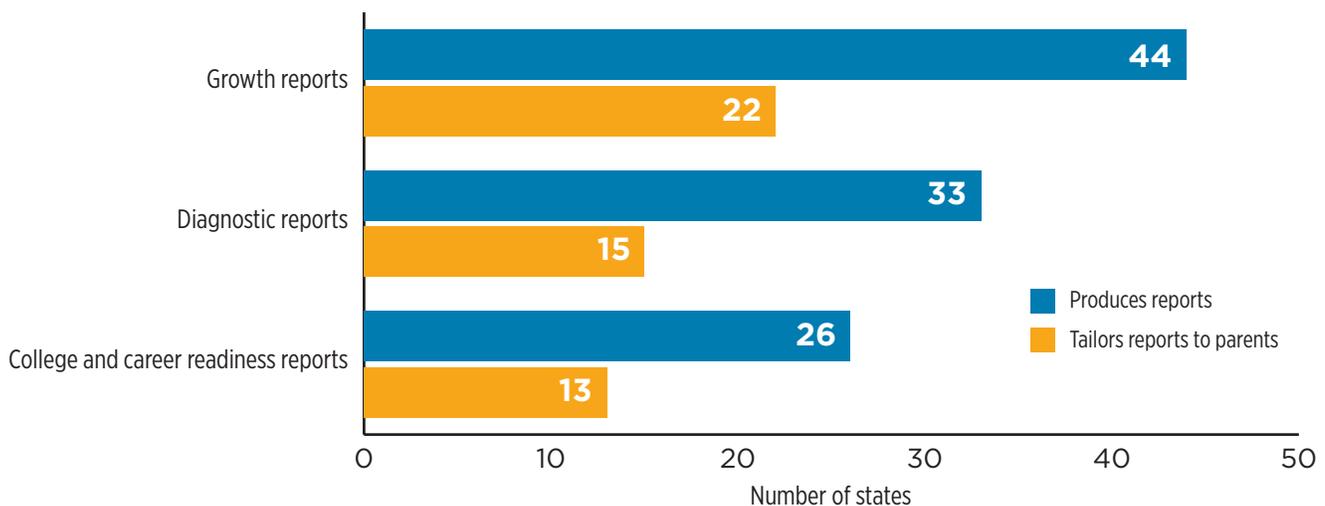


### Why Do Parents Need Data?

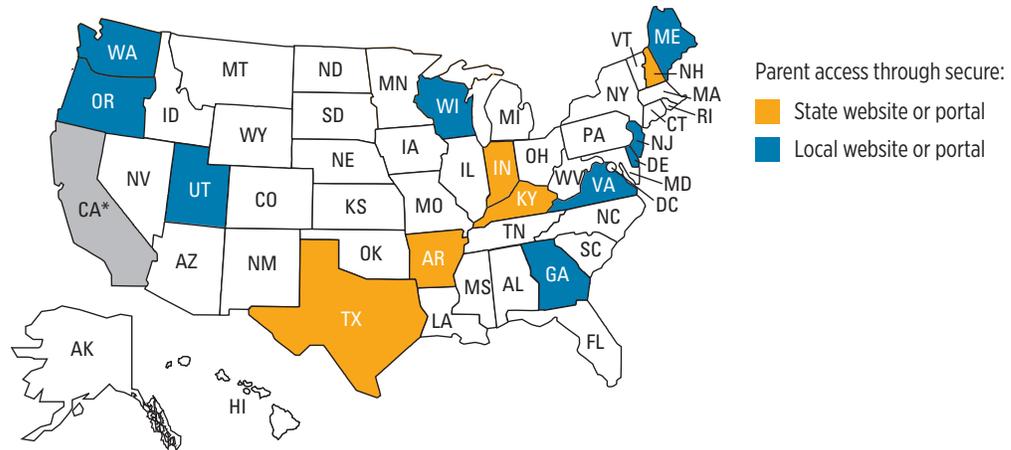
Accessible, tailored, and easy-to-understand data can help parents answer questions about their children's education like "Is my child on track to graduate college and career ready?" and "How does my child's school compare to other schools so that I can make the best choice about my child's education?" Information about their children's progress in school over time helps parents establish expectations, have meaningful conversations with their children's teachers, and take action to support their children's success. Information about their children's current school and other schools, such as high school feedback reports, helps parents understand the quality of the schools in their communities.

While schools and districts provide information to parents about their own children's progress, states also have a role in ensuring that parents have access to user-friendly data about their children's academic performance. States have access to limited, but critical, student data collected by schools; and states can use their resources, including technical expertise and financial support, to produce student progress reports and customized tools to help parents make informed decisions about their children's education. States can also support districts in their efforts to provide parents with information about their children's academic achievement.

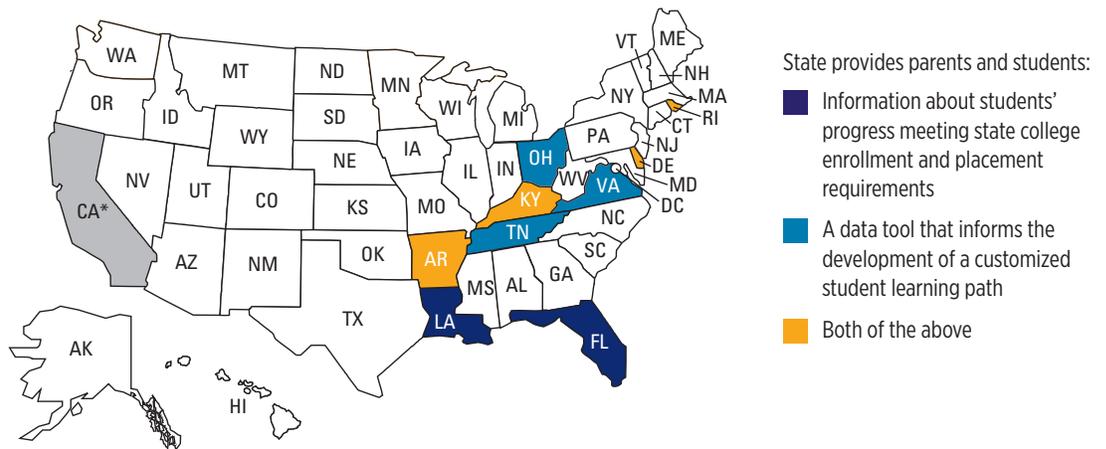
**Most states create student progress reports that provide information educators, parents, and students can use to improve student achievement. Few states tailor these reports to meet parents' needs.**



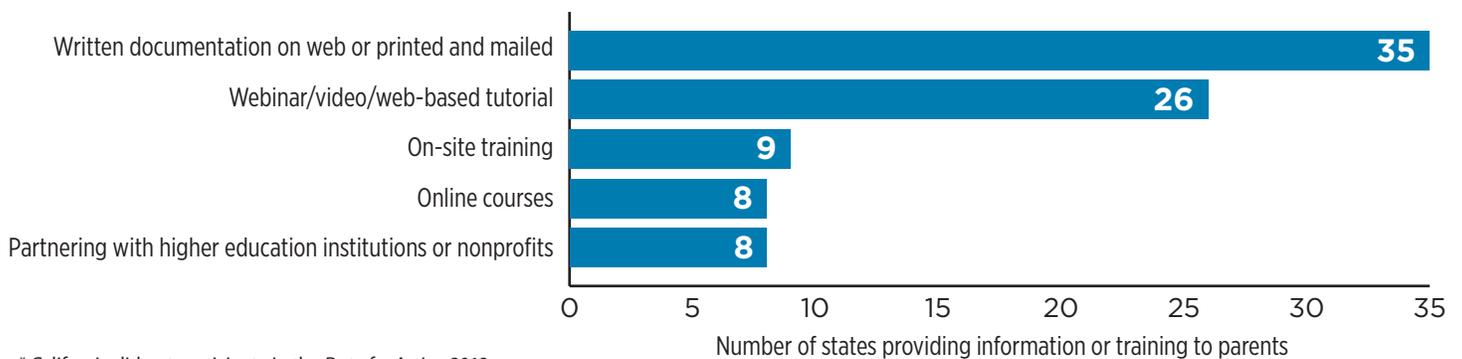
**In 14 states, parents have access to their own children’s data that follow their children’s progress over time, primarily through local, secure portals or websites.**



**States can support families by creating customized information and tools about students’ educational paths.**



**States can provide information and training for parents on how to use and interpret data.** By helping families know how to access and use data appropriately, parents can feel comfortable using data to inform the important education decisions they make for their children.



\* California did not participate in the *Data for Action 2013* survey.

To learn about communicating with parents about data, read *Talking about the Facts of Education Data with Parents and What Every Parent Should Be Asking about Education Data and Privacy*.



The Data Quality Campaign’s *Data for Action* is a series of analyses that highlight state progress and key priorities to promote the effective use of data to improve student achievement. For more information, and to view *Data for Action 2013*, please visit [www.DataQualityCampaign.org](http://www.DataQualityCampaign.org).